

Make Our Community Better. Report Hate.



What steps can I take to prevent hate crimes and incidents?

- **Speak up!** Hate is an attack on the entire community and must be exposed and denounced.
- **Ask school officials** if they recognize the impact that hate incidents have on young people, and ask what they do to address and prevent these incidents.
- **Call it out!** When a friend or family member makes a hateful joke or comment, use this conversation starter: "What do you mean by that?"
- **Discuss hate** with civic, community, and religious groups, friends, and neighbors.
- **Start a neighborhood watch group.** Contact the MCPD District Community Services Officer from your area to learn how to begin.
- **Educate your elected officials** and community members about current hate activities and their effect on the community.
- **Contact your local media** and ask for help in publicizing hate crimes.

Additional Resources for Victims:

If you want to follow-up on your reported crime or incident with the Montgomery County Police Department, contact the Community Resources Section at:



For more information:
MCPD-Engaged
@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County residents who are victims of a hate crime, and their families or significant others, are also eligible for services from the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program. This includes information and referral, advocacy, court accompaniment, and counseling. You can reach a victim assistance specialist by calling the MCPD district station in your area or 240-777-1355.



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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**Empowering the
Community and Victims
of Hate Crimes or Acts**



Office of Human Rights
Committee Against
Hate/Violence

What is a hate crime?

In Montgomery County, Maryland, a hate crime is a criminal act motivated either in whole or substantial part by another person or group's race, color, national origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, homelessness, or disability.

Some examples of hate crimes include:

- Vandalism and Property Damage (including hate symbols or hate-related graffiti)
- Arson
- Cross Burning
- Bomb Threats
- Intimidation or Threat
- Physical Assault

What is a hate incident?

Some hate-motivated acts do not rise to the level of a hate crime, so the person(s) responsible for the act cannot be charged with a crime in Montgomery County. These acts may still leave individuals and communities feeling victimized.

Examples of hate-motivated acts that do not rise to the level of a crime include:

- Offensive or hateful speech
- Bullying
- The distribution of hateful flyers

Hate crimes and incidents do not just target individuals but are intended to threaten an entire community.

What should I do if I am the victim of, or witness to, a hate crime or incident?

1. **Call Montgomery County Police (MCPD) at 9-1-1** whenever you or someone else is threatened or in danger. For your own safety do NOT take it upon yourself to confront perpetrators.

Call the non-emergency police number, 301-279-8000, only if the situation is clearly not an emergency. Do not alter or remove evidence until authorized to do so by police.



MCPD can take a report over the phone or in-person (including an anonymous report). MCPD does not question the documentation status of victims and witnesses to crimes.

2. **Call Montgomery County Office of Human Rights (MCOHR), 240-777-8450**, to report a hate crime or incident.



MCOHR maintains confidentiality unless a victim grants the disclosure of information. It is important to report hate crimes and incidents to both the Montgomery County Police Department and the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights so that the proper authorities can determine whether the act violated the law and so the county can inform, educate and protect the community. As a community, we cannot stop hate if it is not reported.



Support Following a Hate Crime or Incident

The **Montgomery County Committee Against Hate/Violence** works to eradicate acts of hate and intimidation through community education, advocacy, collaboration and legislation.

The Committee reviews hate crimes/incidents that occur in the community, looks for trends, seeks restorative and preventative measures, and administers the Partnership Fund for Victims of Hate/Violence. This Fund was created to support victims of hate crimes and incidents. Individuals and institutions may be eligible under county law for reimbursement of property damages or medical expenses.



For more information:
Human-RightsAdministration
@montgomerycountymd.gov

Faith organizations that experience a hate crime or incident can also reach out to the Faith Community Liaison with the Office of Community Partnerships for support and information at:



For more information:
interfaith
@montgomerycountymd.gov

Take 4 Actions:

- Report the hate crime or incident to the police
- Report to the MCOHR

- Do NOT alter or remove evidence from the scene
- Use the resources in this brochure